

courts as the legislature may, from time to time, order and establish, and in justices of the peace.

Art. 62. The supreme court, except in the cases hereinafter provided, shall have appellate jurisdiction only; which jurisdiction shall extend to all cases when the matter in dispute shall exceed three hundred dollars; to all cases in which the constitutionality or legality of any tax, toll, or impost whatsoever, or of any fine, for forfeiture, or penalty imposed by a municipal corporation, shall be in contestation; and to all criminal cases on questions of law alone, whenever the offence charged, is punishable with death, or imprisonment at hard labour, or when a fine exceeding three hundred dollars is actually imposed. The legislature shall have power to restrict the jurisdiction of the supreme court in civil cases to questions of law only.

Art. 63. The supreme court shall be composed of one chief justice and four associate justices, a majority of whom shall constitute a quorum. The chief justice shall receive a salary of six thousand dollars, and each of the associate judges a salary of five thousand five hundred dollars, annually, until otherwise provided by law. The court shall appoint its own clerks; the judges shall be elected for the term of ten years.

Art. 64. The chief justice shall be elected by the qualified electors of the state. The legislature shall divide the state into four districts, and the qualified electors of each district shall elect one of the associate justices. The state shall be divided into the following districts until the legislature shall otherwise direct.

FIRST DISTRICT.

The parishes of Plaquemines, St. Bernard, that portion of the parish of Orleans on the right bank of the Mississippi river, and that portion of the city of New Orleans which lies below the line extending from the river Mississippi, along the middle of Julia street, until it strikes the New Orleans canal, and thence down said canal to the lake.

SECOND DISTRICT.

That portion of the city of New Orleans which is situated above the line extending along the middle of Julia street until it strikes the New Orleans canal, and thence down said canal to the lake, and the parishes of Jefferson, St. John the Baptist, St. Charles, St. James, Ascension, Assumption, Lafourche Interior, Terrebonne, West Baton Rouge, and Iberville.

THIRD DISTRICT.

The parishes of St. Tammany, Washington, Livingston, St. Helena, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, West Feliciana, Point Coupee, Avoyelles, Tensas, Concordia, Lafayette, Vermillion, St. Mary, St. Martin, and St. Landry.

FOURTH DISTRICT.

The parishes of Calcasieu, Rapides, Sabine, Natchitoches, De Soto, Caddo, Bossier, Claiborne, Bienville, Caldwell, Union, Ouachita, Morehouse, Jackson, Franklin, Catahoula, Madison, Carroll, and Winn.

Art. 65. The office of one of the associate justices shall be vacated at the expiration of the second year, of another at the expiration of the fourth year, of a third at the expiration of the sixth year, and of the fourth at the expiration of the eighth year—so that one of the judges of the supreme court shall be elected every second year.

Art. 66. The secretary of state, on receiving the official returns of the first election, shall proceed immediately, in the presence and with the assistance of two justices of the peace, to determine by lot among the four candidates having the highest number of votes in the respective districts, which of the associate justices elect shall serve for the term of two years, which shall serve for the term of four years, which for the term of six years, and which for the term of eight years, and the governor shall issue commissions accordingly.

Art. 67. Any vacancy that may occur in the supreme court from resignation or otherwise, shall be filled by election for the remainder of the unexpired term, but if such remainder do not exceed one year, the vacancy shall be filled by executive appointment.

Art. 68. The supreme court shall hold its sessions in New Orleans from the first Monday of the month of November to the end of the month of June inclusive. The legislature shall have power to fix the sessions elsewhere during the rest of the year; until otherwise provided, the sessions shall be held as heretofore.

Art. 69. The supreme court and each of the judges thereof shall have power to